



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

November 4, 2021

The Honorable Tom Cotton
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cotton:

Thank you for your letter to the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services (HHS) concerning the dismissal of the lawsuit against the University of Vermont Medical Center (Medical Center).

As you are aware, HHS recently took steps related to an administrative complaint which originated in May 2018, which alleged a possible Church Amendments violation. The lawsuit was dismissed without prejudice on July 30, 2021. That same day, letters were sent to the complainant and the Medical Center advising them of a withdrawal of the August 2019 notice of violation. These letters made clear, however, that HHS would “continue to evaluate the underlying complaint.”

Thank you again for your letter. HHS remains committed to the enforcement of all its legal authorities, including statutes which protect the exercise of conscience and religious freedom, and we appreciate having the benefit of your views on this matter. If you have further thoughts or questions, please have your staff contact the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Legislation at (202) 690-7626.

Sincerely

Xavier Becerra

Cc:

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